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7-29 Gettysburg Gets To See What Baltimore Saw Last Year

The production of [Proof](#) which was designated a [Potomac Stages Pick](#) when it first played at Everyman Theatre in Baltimore in January of last year is being remounted with the same cast under the same director, Vincent M. Lancisi, at the Totem Pole Playhouse, a professional theatre in the Caledonia State Park near Gettysburg PA. Carl Schurr, who played the role of the father in the production, is the Producing Artistic Director at Totem Pole. This will be an opportunity for the normal audience of his theater to see the fine work of this production and for fans of Everyman from the Potomac Region to discover yet another theater destination for a summer outing. The production runs August 2 - 14. For information or tickets go to www.totempoleplayhouse.org or call 888-805-7056.

7-28 Toby Orenstein Directs Teens in Aida Tonight Through Sunday

The Teen Professional Theatre program of the Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts presents a production of the Elton John and Tim Rice musical *Aida* under the direction of Toby Orenstein (Toby's Dinner Theatre) for five performances starting this evening at 7:30. The cast is composed of students between the ages of 13 and 21. Performances are at Reservoir High School, 11550 Scaggsville Road, Fulton MD. Tickets are \$10 to \$22.

7-27 Staunton VA's Blackfriars Summer Rep Is In Full Swing

You can't get away from the heat by traveling south into the Shenandoah Valley, but if your car's air conditioning is working well, the two and a half hour drive could be a pleasant way to check out [Shenandoah Shakespeare's](#) summer repertory of three plays at the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton near the confluence of I-81 and 1-64 west of Charlottesville. The replica of Shakespeare's own indoor theater is as accurate as the researchers could make it but they added such modern touches as air conditioning. The summer repertory is now in full swing with evening performances Tuesday - Saturday and matinees on Saturday and Sunday as well. Playing in repertory are Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* and *Hamlet* as well as David Richmond's adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*.

7-26 Forty Percent of "Best Plays" Play The Potomac Region

Every year since Burns Mantle founded the Best Plays series in 1920, the Theater Yearbook has picked the best plays of the season from those that opened on Broadway, Off Broadway or Off Off Broadway. Four of this year's list of ten plays are slated for production here in the Potomac Region or have already played here. The list includes two plays on Studio Theater's schedule for the upcoming season, one from Woolly Mammoth's season and one, Paula Vogel's *Hot 'n' Throbbing*, that Arena Stage presented back in 1999 but which had never been produced in New York before. The two that are on Studio Theatre's 2005-06 season are [A Number](#) by Caryl Churchill that opens in September and [Guantanamo](#) which opens in November. Woolly Mammoth will be opening its production of [After Ashley](#) in September.

7-25 Black Women Playwrights Group Offers Annual Set of Readings Tonight & Tomorrow

Excerpts from the works of members of the Black Women Playwrights Group of Washington will be read in the group's 16th Annual fundraising effort. Playwrights whose work will be read include Betty Miller Buttram, Joy Carroll, Pat Crews, E. Christi Cunningham, Karen L. B. Evans, Jeanne Gibbs, Louise V. Gray, Debbie Minter Jackson, Joy Jones, Maria Jones, Debra Mims, Debra Rose and Lois A. Whitley. The event will be held tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 at [Studio Theatre](#). Admission is \$22 at the door or by advance tickets purchased online at www.boxofficetickets.com.

7-22 You Can Let Cherry's Plays Age While You Bid on Studio's Stuff on Saturday

[Studio Theatre](#), on 14th Street NW, holds its annual garage sale of costumes, props and set pieces tomorrow from 10

am to 4 pm with items from the last year's productions. The sale will take place while the crew at Cherry Red Productions is working on their annual effort to create a passel of plays in a day. [Warehouse Theatre](#) on 7th Street NW hosts the results in what is expected to be the final installment of "Day-Old Plays" which explains why they are titling the evening "The Final Crust." Plays begun on Friday night will be performed on Saturday night in two sessions. Playwrights involved are Paul Donnelly, Anton Dudley, Jeffrey Keenan, Shawn Northrip, Jay Olexa and Emily Rems. Their work will be directed by Kathleen Akerley, Jennifer Ambrosino, Randy Baker, Bridget O'Leary, Deb Randall and Brian Smith.

7-21 Potomac Theatre Project Hosts Free Late Night Performances

Starting tonight, selected shows at the Potomac Theatre Projects' summer festival at [Olney Theatre Center for the Arts](#) will be followed by free performances in the Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab. Tonight at 10:30 the play will be Le Wilhelm's *Tremulus*. It will be performed again on Saturday July 30 also at 10:30 pm. Joya Scott's *The Answer is Horse* will be performed Tuesday the 26th and Friday the 29th at 10 pm, while Howard Barker's *Judith* will be begin at 10:30 on the 27th and on Friday August 5.

7-20 New Theatre Company Debuts East of the Anacostia

[The East Riverbank Repertory Theatre Company](#) has been formed as a professional company to produce performances in the new Town Hall, Education, Arts and Recreation Center (THE ARC) at 19th and Mississippi Avenues SE. Their inaugural production will be a set of four one-act plays to be presented this weekend and next with performances on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3.

7-19 Festival of Free Readings and 10-Minute Plays on America's Wars This Weekend

Extreme Exchange, a series of theater events, will be held in the [Woolly Mammoth Theatre](#) Rehearsal Hall with work from members of the [African Continuum Theatre Company](#), [Rorschach Theatre](#) and [Theater Alliance](#) under the leadership of Benjamin Fishman and Tim Getman. Friday evening at 8:30 there will be a staged reading of Brett C. Leonard's *Guinea Pig Solo*, a contemporary take on Buchner's *Woyceck*. Saturday afternoon ACTCo's Jennifer Nelson will direct a stage reading of Kia Corthton's play *Moot the Messenger* which concerns an imbedded reporter in Iraq. On Sunday at 8 pm, Jose Rivera's *Reference to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* will be read under the direction of Colin Hovde of Theater Alliance. To wrap up the event, Monday evening will be devoted to a series of new 10-minute plays created specifically for the Exchange followed by an open brainstorming session. Admission is free and reservations may be made by calling 301-422-8423.

7-18 Free Staged Reading of Lanford Wilson Play Tonight

The Actors' Center, the nonprofit service organization for and by actors in the Potomac Region, hosts a free staged reading of Lanford Wilson's 1965 play *Balm in Gilead* at the [Rosslyn Spectrum](#) this evening at 8. Jeremy Skidmore is directing. *Balm in Gilead* is rarely staged because it has a great number of characters as it depicts the world of drifters, pushers, pimps and hookers in New York.

7-7 No New News or Reviews Until July 18

As readers of the free weekly email [Potomac Stages Update](#) already know, Potomac Stages will be on hiatus for the next week and a day while the staff takes a vacation. All the reviews, schedules and other information on the Potomac Stages website will remain available throughout this time, but no new news articles and no new reviews will be posted. Check back here starting on the 18th for the resumption of the most comprehensive coverage of the Potomac Region's incredibly vibrant theatre community.

7-6 The Ushers' Monthly Favorite Show Award Goes To . . . Take Me Out - Again

The theater enthusiasts who usher in the theaters in the Potomac Region, and who participate in the [Ushers' Favorite Show Award](#) program sponsored by Potomac Stages, have named as their favorite show for the month of June the same show they named as their favorite show in May, the Studio Theatre production of [Take Me Out](#). The play by Richard Greenberg was also designated a [Potomac Stages Pick](#) because it provides "the exhilaration that comes from a superb production of a fine play." This is the first time since the award program began in January 2004 that the same production has won two months in a row in clear wins. Once before a production was tied for one month and won the subsequent month in a clear win. That production was also a Studio Theatre show, [The Syringa Tree](#), and it went on to win the first annual award as the ushers' favorite show of 2004. *Take Me Out* is the third production at Studio Theatre to

receive the monthly award. [Black Milk](#) shared the January award this year in a tie. *Take Me Out*, originally scheduled to play through July 10 has been extended a number of times and now is slated to run through July 24.

7-5 Woolly Names Playwright-in-Residence for 2005-06

Kirsten Greenidge, author of *Sans-Culottes in the Promised Land* which was featured at the Humana Festival of New Plays in 2004, will be the Playwright-in-Residence at [Woolly Mammoth Theatre](#) for one year under a grant from the Program for Playwrights jointly sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Theatre Communications Group. During her residence she will develop *The Curious Walk of the Salamander* which Woolly intends to give its world premiere.

7-1 Hall-Flavin's Dream Heads From Carter Barron To Aspen Colorado

The Shakespeare Theatre's production of [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#), which was this summer's Free for All at Carter Barron, is winging its way to Colorado to be a special feature of the Aspen Ideas Festival at the Aspen Institute. The production started out with a full run at the Shakespeare Theatre's home at the Landsburg directed by Mark Lamos in 2003. It was remounted under the direction of the company's Artistic Associate Director, Jeff Hall-Flavin on the outdoor stage of the Carter Barron Amphitheater in upper Rock Creek park for a two week run that ended earlier this month. The Aspen Ideas Festival is a concentrated program of tutorials, seminars, panels and discussions which has been termed "a week-long summer university for the mind." In addition to the performances of Shakespeare's romantic fantasy, there will be programs involving company members. Edward Gero will teach "Acting Shakespeare Beyond Basics," Jeff Hall-Flavin will offer an "Audition Intensive" and Director of Education Dawn McAndrews will teach "Acting Shakespeare for Teens and Young People." There will also be a panel discussion on "Midsummer Madness - Insights Into Shakespeare's Most Magical Play," and a behind the scenes look at putting together a theatre production.

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